

WE MUST STAND UP TO IRAN'S
PROXIES IN IRAQ

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 17, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Iran is continuing its march across the Middle East. At this moment, it is consolidating its gains in Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, Bahrain, and Iraq. Through its network of violent proxies, it is exerting influence to subject millions to the will of the mullahs in Tehran and to launch terrorist attacks against us and our allies. Iran's sectarian proxies are sowing division across the region through their brutal rule, giving Sunni extremists like al-Qaeda and ISIS an opportunity to recruit among the oppressed. Whenever there is weak governance in the Middle East, Iran moves to expand its conquests and challenge the rule of law.

Currently, Iraq is particularly vulnerable to Iran's proxy subversion. The country is attempting to rebuild—with our help—after years of battling ISIS. Hundreds of thousands still remain displaced from their homes and the damage to the country's infrastructure is immense. Yet despite ISIS's defeat on the battlefield and the liberation of all major towns and cities, corruption and Iranian meddling present major obstacles towards allowing Iraq to heal. Iranian-backed militias are not disbanding, but instead are controlling territory, infiltrating government institutions, and attempting to seize political power. They do not respect democracy or care for the interests of average Iraqis. These proxies serve only the goals of their masters in Tehran who want to keep their neighbor weak. Their presence undermines the Iraqi government's authority and ultimately hinders reconciliation amongst the country's religious sects.

After President Obama foolishly withdrew our forces in 2011, it was these thugs and their Iranian patrons who filled the void, creating the sectarian conditions for Iraq to unravel and ISIS to be born. We must not allow this to happen again. By working to restore Iraqi sovereignty and diminish the power of Iran's agents, we can prevent ISIS from returning and another generation of Americans having to go fight in the Middle East.

Unfortunately, Iran's proxies in Iraq are gaining power and despite legislation to target these groups, our own State Department is getting in the way. For too long they have tried diplomatic niceties to urge Iraqis to stand up to their countrymen who are doing Tehran's bidding. But this method is failing as Iranian-backed groups such as Asaib Ahl al-Haq win more seats in Iraq's parliament. Al-Haq is a militia group that has killed dozens of Americans, Iraqis, Kurds, and Syrians, yet no one will stand up to them—not even our foreign service officers. It's time to stop doing a dance with the devils in Iraq and Iran, and send a clear message that these groups should be designated as terrorists and cast out of the halls of power in Baghdad. If we do not, the future of Iraq as a strong independent nation is in jeopardy.

Iranian-controlled militias, like Asaib Ahl al-Haq and their comrades in Harakat Hezbollah Al-Nujaba must be targeted so that those freedom-loving Iraqis who hope to rebuild their country can see that America stands with

them. Already we are seeing in the streets of southern Iraq that some Iraqis are demonstrating courage in the face of Iran's proxies. They, like the Iranian people, are demanding that the mullahs' corruption be removed from their country. The era of bending the knee to Tehran is over.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOLLIN HALL VILLAGE

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 17, 2018

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Hollin Hall Village neighborhood in Fairfax County. This historic milestone is a testament to the strength and spirit of both Fairfax County and Northern Virginia.

The neighborhood of Hollin Hall Village was established in 1943 under the leadership of developer John McPherson, Sr., who believed in the future of both the community and Fairfax County. During the 1950s, the fledgling Hollin Hall Village witnessed an explosion of home development and expansion. Since then, generations of residents have called Hollin Hall Village their home and enjoyed the small-town feel located just 10 miles south of Washington, D.C.

Today, Hollin Hall Village is a community of approximately 700 single-family homes and businesses located in Fairfax County's Mount Vernon District. Hollin Hall Village contains two shopping centers with community staples and specialty stores, a seniors' center, Mount Vernon Park, and a baseball field that countless little league teams call home.

A community's health can be judged by its level of civic engagement. The Hollin Hall Village Citizen's Association brings together locals who faithfully volunteer to support their community, represent their neighborhood at County meetings, and serve on County boards and committees. Thanks to those efforts, Hollin Hall Village has grown and thrived while maintaining the small-town feeling that early residents envisioned.

Mr. Speaker, Virginia's 8th Congressional District remains one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, and raise a family. Behind this achievement are generations of individuals who have, in the spirit of Hollin Hall Village's founders, worked tirelessly to maintain the area's undeniable charm. I commend the Hollin Hall Village Citizen's Association for its work and congratulate the citizens of Hollin Hall Village for reaching this historic milestone. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them great success in their future endeavors.

HONORING DEPUTY MARSHAL JOSHUA KATZ

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 17, 2018

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic action of Deputy Marshal

Joshua Katz, a law enforcement officer in Log Lane Village, CO.

On August 3rd, while Deputy Katz was on duty, he received a call from dispatch regarding a man found unconscious in the town of Log Lane Village. Katz quickly arrived on the scene and noticed a needle in the man's arm. It was later discovered that the man had overdosed on a combination of heroin and fentanyl. Utilizing the training that he had received on drug overdose prevention, Katz administered Narcan nasal spray and performed rescue breathing until an ambulance arrived—actions which likely saved the man's life.

The use of opioids is a growing issue and Eastern Colorado has been increasingly harmed by the scourge of opioid addiction. This is why our communities rely on the training of our first responders and law enforcement officers.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join the people of Log Lane Village in thanking Deputy Marshal Joshua Katz for his courage, quick-thinking, and dedication to protecting our community.

HONORING GOLDEN VALLEY HEALTH CENTERS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 17, 2018

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Golden Valley Health Centers in honor of National Health Center Week. Since 1972, Golden Valley Health Centers have served the people of the San Joaquin Valley with integrity and honor. During that time, they have been guided by their mission to improve the health of patients regardless of language, financial, or cultural barriers, and exemplified the benefits that health centers provide to local communities.

Golden Valley Health Centers provide affordable, comprehensive primary and preventive care to underserved communities with their 32 clinics throughout Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin Counties. Their team of over 900 people includes physicians, nurse practitioners, behavior health specialists, physician assistants, and certified nurse midwives, all of whom advance the mission and vision of Golden Valley Health Centers through the various essential care services they provide.

Golden Valley Health Centers have proved it is possible to overcome barriers to healthcare access, such as geography, income, and insurance status. In doing so, health centers, such as Golden Valley, improve health care outcomes while, at the same time, reducing the costs of health care. These health centers provide services vital to the public health of our valley and nation, including healthcare for our veterans, natural disaster response, and mental health care to help battle the opioid epidemic. It has been an honor to work alongside Golden Valley Health Centers to ensure access to quality, affordable health for constituents throughout my district.

Furthermore, Golden Valley, like most health centers, is governed by patient-majority boards and locally owned and operated, ensuring that patients are engaged in their own health care decisions. With local control, health centers often serve as critical economic